

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 30

Introduced by Assembly Member Berg

February 23, 2007

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 30—Relative to the Elizabeth Jane Rosewarne Memorial Bridge.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 30, as introduced, Berg. Elizabeth Jane Rosewarne Memorial Bridge.

This measure would designate the northern span of the Eel River Bridge, located on State Highway Route 101 in the County of Mendocino, as the Elizabeth Jane Rosewarne Memorial Bridge. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Jane Rosewarne was born to William
- 2 and Elizabeth Sandow on July 12, 1866, in Eagle River, Michigan;
- 3 and
- 4 WHEREAS, Elizabeth met Nicholas Rosewarne, who was born
- 5 in England, in Nevada City, and they married in 1884; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Elizabeth and Nicholas moved to San Francisco,
- 7 where Nicholas was a cable car conductor, and Elizabeth was a
- 8 professional seamstress; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Elizabeth and Nicholas had three children, Edna,
- 10 Ray, and Myrtle; and

1 WHEREAS, Due to Elizabeth's poor health, the doctor
2 recommended she move from the foggy air of San Francisco to a
3 warmer climate; and

4 WHEREAS, Nicholas traveled by boat to Usal and set out in
5 search of land, selecting a 160-acre parcel bordering on the South
6 Fork of the Eel River, across from Confusion Hill, which he
7 purchased in May of 1896; and

8 WHEREAS, The following May, Elizabeth and the children
9 boarded one of the vessels of the (Robert) Dollar Steamship
10 Company, sailed to Usal, and from there, traveled by mule over a
11 10-mile backwoods trail to the homestead carrying essential
12 belongings, including a child-size rocking chair that is still in the
13 family today, strapped between two mules; and

14 WHEREAS, Elizabeth thrived in the new climate, taking the
15 chores of a pioneer woman in stride and, while a petite woman,
16 could work with a cross cut saw, fish the Eel River for salmon and
17 trout, smoke salmon in the smokehouse, and pack a mule and haul
18 wood on the family horse named Queen; and

19 WHEREAS, With Nicholas working on the Henry Neff
20 Anderson's railroad between Andersonia (Piercy) and Usal during
21 the week, Elizabeth traveled by horseback with both children
22 strapped on the horse on the mountain trail to Usal, to pick up mail
23 and supplies; and

24 WHEREAS, On one unforgettable trip to Usal, Elizabeth,
25 carrying a sack of fresh meat, was followed closely by a shrieking
26 panther, and although her horse spooked and jumped over a gate,
27 she and the children managed to hold on tight and make it back
28 safely to the homestead; and

29 WHEREAS, Elizabeth was an expert at baking her own bread,
30 making her own butter and cream, and growing prized heirloom
31 tomatoes that she traded to her neighbors, and in addition she
32 canned over 400 jars of fruit during the summer from the
33 Rosewarne homestead orchard; and

34 WHEREAS, Elizabeth was an expert seamstress and made all
35 the clothes for her family and also loved to quilt, spending many
36 evenings working on her latest quilt; and

37 WHEREAS, Elizabeth loved to fish and kept a daily count of
38 her impressive catch, and her favorite fishing hole was in the eddy
39 of the Eel River, which is the proposed bridge site for the northern
40 span of the Eel River Bridge; and

1 WHEREAS, After a long day of chores, Elizabeth would hitch
2 up the horse and take her daughter, Myrtle, to visit the neighbors,
3 and in the evenings, the family would use a Parcheesi Board circle
4 Elizabeth made on the back of her round oil cloth to play the game;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, After Nicholas lost his vision in one eye from a
7 logging accident and then in the other eye from glaucoma,
8 Elizabeth cared for him until his death on May 3, 1922, at 69 years
9 of age; and

10 WHEREAS, After Nicholas' death, Elizabeth moved across the
11 Eel River to the north end of the Rosewarne Homestead, operating
12 a Texaco Star gas station and a country store to support herself
13 and her youngest daughter, Myrtle; and

14 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Jane Rosewarne died on January 7, 1949,
15 and is buried in the family plot in Piercy Cemetery in Mendocino
16 County, beside her son, Ray; and

17 WHEREAS, Elizabeth and Nicholas Rosewarne's homestead
18 is the location for both the southern and northern spans of the Eel
19 River Bridge; and

20 WHEREAS, The southern span of the Eel River Bridge will be
21 named the Minney Lilley Memorial Bridge, and Minney Lilley
22 and Elizabeth Rosewarne were friends, with Minney being
23 mentioned in Elizabeth's diary and the teacher for Elizabeth's
24 daughter, Myrtle, as well as several of Elizabeth's grandchildren
25 and a greatgrandson; and

26 WHEREAS, The family of Elizabeth Jane Rosewarne feels it
27 would be a fitting tribute to name both bridge spans after two
28 pioneer women, inspiring women and young girls growing up, or
29 traveling to and from the area, to know that pioneer women played
30 a key role in the history of Mendocino County; and

31 WHEREAS, The Rosewarne Homestead has been sited in a
32 report by the Department of Transportation as a historic
33 archaeological site and is eligible for the National Register of
34 Historic Places; now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
36 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes the
37 accomplishments and the extraordinary contributions of Elizabeth
38 Jane Rosewarne to the history of California and hereby designates
39 the northern span of the Eel River Bridge as the Elizabeth Jane
40 Rosewarne Memorial Bridge; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
2 to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the
3 signing requirements for the state highway system, showing this
4 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
5 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it
6 further

7 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
8 of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
9 author for appropriate distribution.